

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4 and 53-70 are pending in the present application. Claims 69 and 70 have been newly added.

In the Restriction Requirement of November 2, 2005, the Examiner required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species. However, the Examiner did not identify the subject matter which he considers to comprise separate species.

On November 10, 2005, Applicants' U.S. representative conducted an interview with the Examiner to discuss the Restriction Requirement. During the interview, the Examiner explained that he considers the following groups of claims to be directed to separate species:

- I) Claims 60-64;
- II) Claims 4, 56, 59 and 65-68;
- III) Claims 53 and 57; and
- IV) Claims 54, 55 and 58.

In the Restriction Requirement of November 2, 2005, the Examiner stated that claim 2 is generic to a plurality of species. Further, Applicants have added new claim 69, which depends on claim 56. Applicants have elected Species II, comprising generic claim 2, and claims 4, 56, 59 and 65-69. However, the election is made with traverse for at least the following reasons.

Section 803 of the M.P.E.P. provides that a requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions is proper only if there would be a serious burden on the Examiner to examine all of the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that there would

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not be a serious burden on the Examiner to examine all of the claims of the present invention.

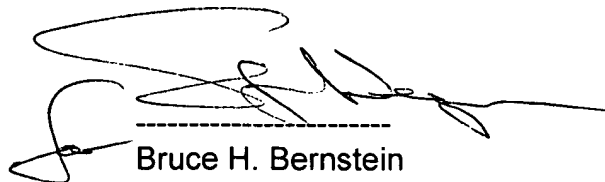
Applicants respectfully submit that the search areas for the species identified by the Examiner is highly coextensive. Furthermore, Applicants submit that the Examiner has already performed a search for claims 2 and 4, and submit that the Examiner would not be required to examine an inordinate amount of claims to examine all of the claimed species.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's restriction requirement is improper, and request withdrawal of the requirement.

Nevertheless, in order to be fully responsive, Applicants have elected with traverse Species II, comprising claims 2, 4, 56, 59 and 65-69, in the event that the Examiner chooses not to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Takumi IKEDA et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce H. Bernstein', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191